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Items 28, 93, 95, 110, 111 and 170 of the preliminary list*

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

Macroeconomic policy questions

Sustainable development and international economic cooperation

Crime prevention and criminal justice

International drug control

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Fifty-eighth year

Letter dated 9 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the Joint Statement by the heads of State of the members of the Central Asian Cooperation Organization signed in Almaty on 5 July 2003 (see annex).

On behalf of the Permanent Missions of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan to the United Nations, which are the member countries of the Central Asian Cooperation Organization and as the representative of the country hosting this meeting, I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 28, 93, 95, 110, 111 and 170 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yerzhan Kh. **Kazykhanov**

* A/58/50/Rev.1 and Corr.1

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Annex to the letter dated 9 July 2003 from the Permanent Representative of Kazakhstan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Joint statement by the heads of State of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan

The Presidents of the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan,

Having discussed the questions of developing multilateral regional cooperation within the framework of the Central Asian Cooperation Organization (CACO), the situation in and around the region, and other urgent international problems,

Acting in accordance with the established practice of open, constructive dialogue and the degree of mutual understanding and reciprocal trust that has been achieved,

Guided by the general aspiration to develop multilateral cooperation on the basis of the principles of true equality, mutual aid and respect for one another's interests and in a spirit of traditional friendship and good-neighbourliness between the peoples of Central Asia,

Confirming the aspiration to bring about the further expansion of regional cooperation across the entire spectrum of inter-State relations in the interest of ensuring peace, stability and security in the region,

Attaching particular importance to deepening cooperation in combating international terrorism, political and religious extremism, illicit drug trafficking, illegal migration and transnational organized crime,

Recognizing the primary importance of further deepening economic cooperation, vigorously exploiting the natural and economic potential of the member countries, and developing transport communications in Central Asia,

Having considered the results of the activities of the Central Asian Cooperation Organization since its transformation,

State the following:

I

The heads of State consider that the Central Asian Cooperation Organization has become an important institution for regional cooperation and a vital component for establishing an effective system to ensure stability in Central Asia and is making its contribution to the efforts by the international community to counter the threats and challenges of the contemporary world.

The Central Asian Cooperation Organization, which was formed on the basis of the Central Asian Economic Cooperation Organization, has become more democratic and flexible, and the number of questions that are considered has been broadened. In addition to the discussion of economic questions, a frank and

confidential dialogue on all the vital problems of the region is conducted within the framework of CACO.

In 2002, four summit meetings of the Presidents of the CACO countries were held, at which pressing questions of regional development and international policy were discussed.

Openness and readiness for constructive cooperation with other countries and international organizations have become steadfast principles of the Central Asian Cooperation Organization.

The heads of State highly assessed the results of the first meeting of parliamentarians of the Central Asian Cooperation Organization member States held in Tashkent on 18 November 2002, at which the establishment and development of parliamentarism in the States of the region, and prospects for developing interparliamentarian cooperation and new forms of inter-State cooperation aimed at strengthening peace and stability in the region were discussed. The heads of State note the importance of the decision adopted on the establishment of an interparliamentary cooperation institute — the Conference of Parliamentarians of the CACO member States.

The heads of State, having considered the work of taking stock of the legal and treaty basis of CACO and the cessation of the activities of the closed stock company, the Central Asian Bank for Cooperation and Development, have instructed their Governments to complete this work by the end of 2003.

The heads of State noted the importance of speedily resolving the entire range of questions related to the legal determination of inter-State borders.

II

The development of multifaceted trade and economic cooperation is a priority area within the framework of CACO.

In this connection, the heads of State noted the importance and usefulness of the business forums that were held on 28 and 29 November 2002 and 6 May 2003 in the cities of Tashkent and Osh.

The meetings of representatives of business circles and entrepreneurs once again confirmed the importance of drawing up and implementing joint projects, harmonizing legislation, liberalizing trade regulations, strengthening direct contacts between enterprises and businessmen, and attracting investments in the economies of the Central Asian States.

The heads of State have instructed their Governments to take the necessary measures to ensure the practical implementation of the agreements reached during the business forums.

The heads of State underscore the importance of intensifying the process of creating favourable conditions for trade and investment and organizing cooperation in the banking and financial fields.

The CACO heads of State have instructed their Governments to speed up the elaboration of draft agreements on establishing international hydro-energy, transport and food consortiums.

In this connection, the holding in Tashkent in May 2003 of the annual meeting of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the participation of the leaders of the CACO countries in it, as well as the forthcoming annual meeting of the countries of the Islamic Development Bank Group in September are of major importance in order to attract foreign investment to the region and execute large-scale international projects, primarily in the hydro-energy and communication fields.

The heads of State adopted a decision to request international financial institutions, including the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the Islamic Development Bank, to provide assistance in drawing up a plan for the activities of hydro-energy, transport and food consortiums.

In view of the enclave-like nature of the region, the development of the transport infrastructure and providing member countries with access to seaports and the world market, including the use of the port of Aktau, are particularly important.

The heads of State noted that the Central Asian region, which, by virtue of its geographic position, possesses an enormous transit potential, must become a component part of the intercontinental transport corridors, and agreed to give their Governments instructions to strengthen coordination in this area.

III

The heads of State consider broad cooperation on the part of the CACO States important in countering general threats and challenges such as terrorism, extremism, illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, illegal migration and transnational organized crime.

In this connection, the heads of State stressed the importance of the conference of directors of security services and "power" structures of the CACO member States held from 20 to 22 August 2002 in Tashkent, and instructed the directors of the aforementioned structures to hold similar conferences on a regular basis.

The heads of State pointed out in particular that strengthening peace and stability in Afghanistan and establishing good-neighbourly relations with that country are in keeping with the basic interests of the countries of Central Asia. Joint efforts to restore Afghanistan's economy and infrastructure will make a substantial contribution to ensuring regional security and stability.

On the basis of this, the heads of State expressed support for the efforts of Hamid Karzai in the post-war rebuilding of the country and noted the importance of involving Afghanistan in the process of Central Asian regional cooperation.

IV

The heads of State consider the expansion and deepening of cooperation in the cultural and humanitarian field an important factor in strengthening friendly and good-neighbourly relations between the countries and people of Central Asia.

The participants in the summit also expressed their support for expanding cultural, educational and scientific links among the CACO countries.

Providing assistance in solving the problems of organizing the television and radio broadcasting of CACO countries in one another's territory was recognized as a key area in this field.

To these ends, instructions were given to hold a meeting of the directors of television and radio companies in the second half of 2003 in order to deal with organizational and technical matters and establish quotas for the exchange of television programmes.

V

The heads of State stressed that the constructive negotiations, held in an atmosphere of openness and mutual understanding, have made a substantial contribution to the further development of multilateral and mutually advantageous cooperation on the part of the States of Central Asia.

The participants in the summit noted the effectiveness of the activities of CACO during the period of the chairmanship of the Republic of Uzbekistan in the Organization's bodies.

The heads of State expressed their appreciation for the warm and cordial reception accorded to them by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Nursultan Nazarbayev, in the hospitable land of Kazakhstan.

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan
N. **Nazarbayev**

President of the Kyrgyz Republic
A. **Akaev**

President of the Republic of Tajikistan
E. **Rakhmonov**

President of the Republic of Uzbekistan
I. **Karimov**

5 July 2003

Almaty